

OKLAHOMA
FIFTY CENTS *today*

VACATION SPECIAL

Kent Ruth • Angie Debo

THE BEST OF TROY GORDON * RODEO
WEATHER * FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE
SPRING COLOR ISSUE



Brief Historical Outline

The first known inhabitants of Oklahoma were the Osage, Waco, Quapaw, Caddo, Wichita, Kiowa, Comanche & the Apache. 1541 Coronado crossed western Oklahoma. 1655 the Crown of Great Britain granted the Colony of Carolina all the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific between 30° 36 degrees 30 min. Latitude. 1678-84 La Salle claimed all land drained by the Mississippi & named it Louisiana. France ceded it to Spain 1763. Spain ceded it back to France in 1801. 1803 Louisiana purchased by U.S. 1850 designated as Indian Territory. 1861-65 under military control of Confederacy. 1889 Oklahoma Territory was opened for Settlement. 1907 Nov. 16 Oklahoma became the 46th State in the Union.



SOMETHING STRANGE HAS HAPPENED to this publication over the past year. We started out to put out a magazine for the state of Oklahoma, and now find ourselves with something a little bigger on our hands. What we mean to say is that we're finding more and more people seem to be buying this magazine for the "something different" it contains, aside from our Oklahoma label. People in all 48 states and more than 30 foreign nations.

If you've been following this venture right along, you know what this "something different" is. But we'll bet you never realized that you're responsible for it. How? By writing us so many wonderful letters—and telling us with your checks for subscriptions: "Keep it up. Keep it going. This is what we want."

So between the two of us we've created "something different" that appeals to a lot of people. But we need to reach a lot more people—to bring our quantity of circulation up to match quality of presentation.

Brochures, mailing pieces, campaigns, salesmen—all the normal ways of building circulation cost one heck of a lot of money. We don't have that kind of money. We just sink everything we've got into the magazine and hope for the best, rather than try to cut into this "something different" for promotion funds.

So now in lieu of money or a pocketful of magic, we're banking once again on what might be termed "creative friendship" to help us spread the word about this "something different."

We've labeled the idea "Plan X." It's right here next door, and we hope you'll take the time to look it over.

Dave Loye

EDITOR

OKLAHOMA *today*

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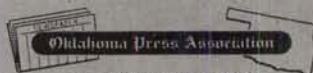
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THE BEST OF TROY GORDON

enjoy rib-tickling wit by
Oklahoma's favorite

... DEAR KNOW-IT-ALL

Spring Issue, 1958



all this and



Running water, too?

by
KENT
RUTH

It's true. Leave us not be frivolous on that point. If Oklahoma's state parks have one single commodity in superabundance, it is running water. Water that runs over dams. Water that flows down tree-lined river beds. Water that bubbles from holes in the ground. Yes, and water that wends its efficient way

through what is commonly referred to as plumbing.

And this is only part of the story. In school, it was the three R's. But when it comes to state park vacationing, it's the three W's . . . Water, Woods and Wildlife. And with the afore-mentioned running-water comforts of home thrown in—plus real dollar-saving economy—the result is a vacation package that's mighty hard to beat.

It seems a bit paradoxical, of course. For Oklahoma is generally considered a "dry" state. But vision, hard work—and plenty of cash—have pretty well turned the tables on a sometimes capricious nature. Oklahoma's state parks now have their water. And they also have the where-withall for providing wholesome whoopee and restful relaxation, at budget prices. Let's examine the evidence.

Water? Of the state's two-dozen parks and recreation areas, at least half front on lakes. And these range from out-sized ponds to such monster reservoirs as sprawling LAKE TEXOMA, whose 95,400-acre surface area makes it the nation's ninth largest man-made body of water. (Other noteworthy puddles: SEQUOYAH's Fort Gibson Reservoir, 19,100 acres; TENKILLER, 12,500 acres; QUARTZ MOUNTAIN's Lake Altus, 6,800 acres; LAKE MURRAY, 6,000 acres; WISTER, 4,000 acres; HEYBURN, 1,070 acres; and GREENLEAF, 920 acres).

Nor is this all. OSAGE HILLS, BOILING SPRINGS, and ROMAN NOSE point to abundant springs, nature's own tap-water system that's handier than

the knob on a door. BEAVERS BEND hails the Mountain Fork as "the most beautiful river in Oklahoma," and ALABASTER CAVERNS call attention to the muffled roar of a subterranean stream. (Many of the parks even gild the lily with tiled swimming pools, for the vacationer who doesn't want to run the risk of catching a black bass on the zipper of his swim trunks.)

Faced with this unaccustomed wealth, the park visitor—Okie and outlander alike—has suddenly discovered the infinite variety of things he can do with water besides drinking it and, when necessary, bathing in it. Fishing, of course, he's always known about. And except for a couple of strictly historical preserves, he can fish—and catch fish—in all the parks. (New, though, are the heated fishing docks, of which SEQUOYAH has two.)

But now he's learning to enjoy excursion boat cruises at SEQUOYAH, MURRAY and TEXOMA (with moonlight dancing, yet), and speed boat rides. He's finding out that for a reasonable fee he can rent boats and motors, and the widest assortment of water-born equipment—water skis, water bicycles, aquaplanes and such—this side of Abercrombie & Fitch. He's even learned that at MURRAY he can become a devoted sailboater for a mere \$2 an hour.

Woods? Out-of-state visitors, surprised to discover water in Oklahoma, are often equally nonplussed to find trees. (Their composite picture of Soonerland sometimes seems to be that of a vast desert dotted with spouting oil derricks and criss-crossed by trails for steak-bearing bovines, blanket-wearing redskins, and Joad-toting jalopies.) Yet woods, too, help to round out the state parks recreation pattern.

ROBBERS CAVE has virgin pine and masses of redbud and dogwood, those twin color-bearers of Oklahoma's springtime. BEAVERS BEND claims the state's

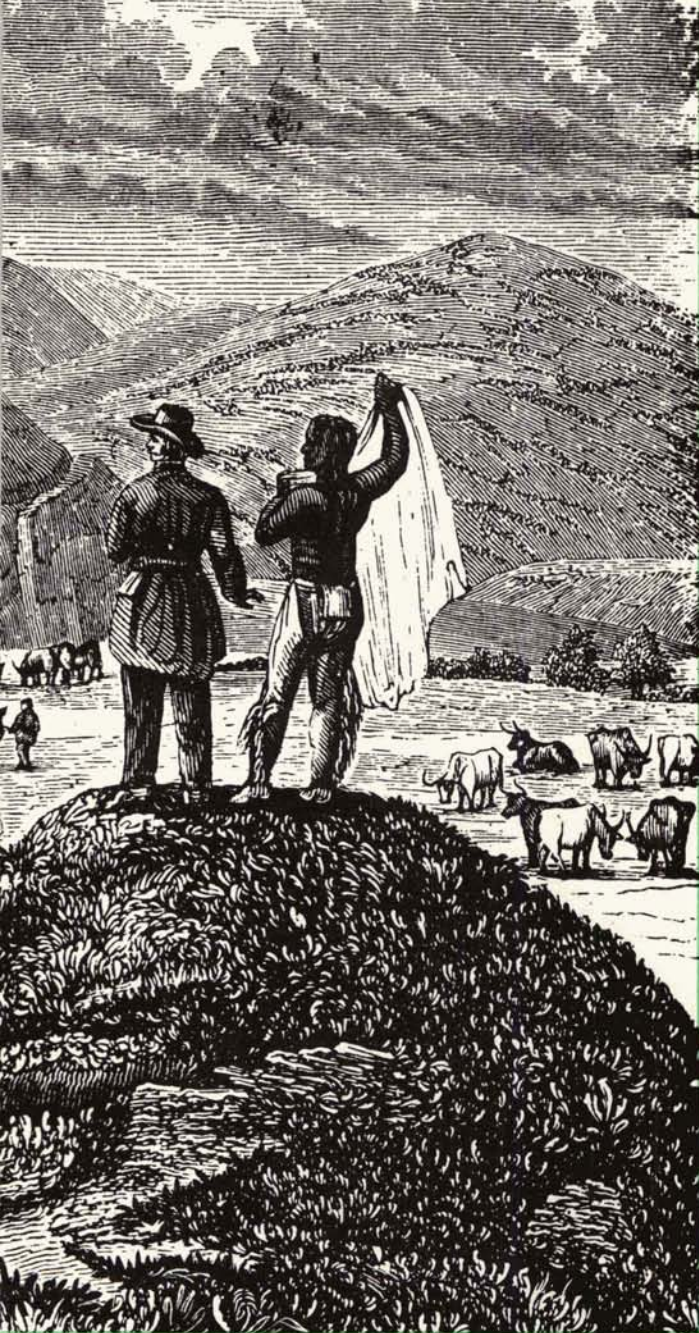
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Southwest Romance

BY ANGIE DEBO

HISTORICAL GUIDE TO OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS



Traders' camp on the Santa Fe Trail, between the North Fork and the Canadian River, in 1839. By 1860, three-thousand wagons and seven-thousand men each year were using this famous pioneer trail.

... photo from the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

To get the most from Angie Debo's fine article, have a modern Oklahoma map, as well as the historical map on the inside covers of this magazine, at hand to refer to as you read.

... the editors

THE stage of European occupation, which began less than fifty years after Columbus, may be visualized in the piled granite wilderness of QUARTZ MOUNTAIN STATE PARK. Records at Santa Fe indicate that Spanish gold seekers came somewhere in that vicinity in 1611 and that a Christian mission was maintained for ninety years until it was wiped out by hostile Indians. A few miles outside the park entrance where remote Devil's Canyon opens out on the river is some evidence of this vanished settlement.

But it had long been forgotten even by the Indians when the next stage of Oklahoma history began with the purchase of the Louisiana domain by the United States in 1803. A Wichita village was on the site when the first American expedition visited it in 1834. The whole savage scene—close grouped grass houses against a mountain wall with a cornfield filling the foreground—has been preserved in a painting by George Catlin. For three hot dusty days the leaders of the expedition held council with two thousand Wichitas, Kiowas, and Comanches—the first official contact between the United States government and the buffalo hunting tribes of the Southwest plains.

American ownership of Oklahoma brought not only exploring expeditions but business enterprise, Protestant missions, military posts, and the advancing frontier of settlement.

In 1806 Joseph Bogy came up the Verdigris to the present resort center of Okay just below the gleaming sheet of water that forms the recreational background of SEQUOYAH STATE PARK. His men cut trees from the surrounding forest and built a post where he could exchange hatchets, beads, and bright colored cloth for the furs, pelts, and wild honey brought in by the Osages.

Other traders joined him and the place became a busy little settlement. Colonel Auguste Pierre Chouteau of the great St. Louis fur trading family owned one of these establishments; and he also operated a shipyard and built sturdy boats for the traffic that worked its way through the snags and shallows and occasional fierce floods of the Arkansas.

Other pioneer business men developed salt works, and the product was carried by pack animals to supply the frontier settlements of Missouri and Arkansas or even shipped to New Orleans. The first was near the shore of FORT GIBSON LAKE northeast of the present Mazie. Another was farther up the river where Chouteau operated a trading post at Salina. A third was on a branch of the Illinois near the dam that now backs the water up to form the lake of TENKILLER STATE PARK.

It was not coincidence that located the first Protestant mission near the salt works on FORT GIBSON LAKE. This salt had been used by the Indians long before white men developed it commercially, and so the place was chosen for convenient contact with the Osages. The first

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Out of the Old West an answer
to the greatest challenge
facing Western Civilization . . .
OKLAHOMA'S

Frontiers of Science Foundation

by
Dave
Loye

For a long time the Old West has reigned triumphant. It still charges daily through our lives in the form of Marshals Matt Dillon and Wyatt Earp, the gentleman known as Maverick and the crusty souls of Wagon Train. But today a New West is trying to break through the Old and seize the public mind. This is a story of this New West, a tale as fantastic as any out of the old frontier, but it will call for a new frame of mind from both writer and reader, a new way of thought that can clasp an idea as surely as the horse or gun of old. And it is an important story, for upon the extent of our bold taste for adventure in this new frontier of the mind, may hang our very lives.

To begin at a beginning most familiar to all of us, it might be best to return to last Fall when Sputnik and attendant events fired off the jolt heard 'round the world.

At that time Americans everywhere stared aghast at what appeared to be a black and gaping pit of rather horrible possibilities. But after the confusion cleared, they saw that the pit—while still there—was neither so dark or deep as first glance sized it up. They also noticed, for the first time, many bands of men who were working

...the most comprehensive effort to build enthusiasm for science is taking place in Oklahoma.

NATION'S BUSINESS

Oklahoma has shown outstanding awareness of the importance of nuclear age science to its own growth and development.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Oklahoma has demonstrated what private enterprise and initiative can do.

ROANOKE WORLD-NEWS

Oklahoma may be a young state but the example of its businessmen, anxious like their fathers who settled the state to reach a new frontier of opportunity "sooner" than anyone else, might well inspire older and more settled ones.

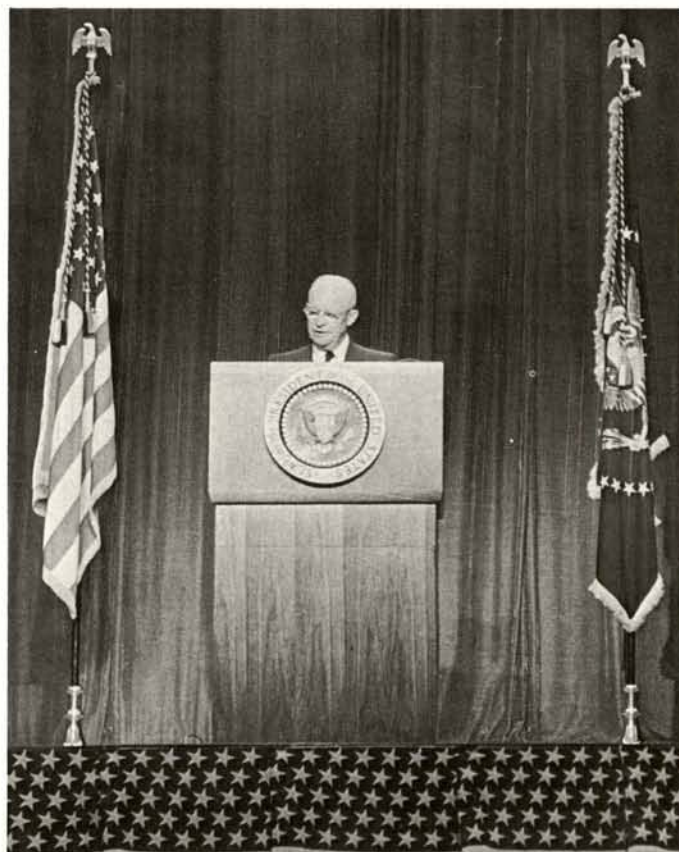
TOLEDO BLADE

Oklahoma has one of the finest total science programs in the land.

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES

"Right here in Oklahoma you have established a superb mechanism for the mobilization of needed resources to strengthen our pursuit of basic scientific knowledge. It is the Frontiers of Science Foundation. You have reason to be proud of it. I hope other states will follow your example."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower,
nationwide television and radio
broadcast from Oklahoma City,
Nov. 13, 1957.



to fill the pit, and had already fired up some pretty powerful torches for light. To much amazement, they discovered that one of the brightest of these lights came from Oklahoma.

Some have wondered why, after Sputnik went up, President Eisenhower happened to select Oklahoma as the site for his sole major address away from Washington to reassure a worried nation. It was no accident. It was basically a tribute to a small group of Oklahomans who had quietly started three years previous, well in advance of any other state, to fuel up a rocket-powered wagon train out of the New West; a new kind of wagon train organized to advance the cause of science and education into the wilderness of space and time. It was called the Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

What caught the eye of national leaders involved in the current reappraisal of Western Civilization's scientific strength has been the speed with which the Oklahoma venture got rolling, its rough-and-ready frontier optimism, and the new territory it is opening up along the way.

The venture first attracted notice in 1956, when Oklahoma was the only state in the nation to secure the famed Atoms for Peace Exhibit. The same year found Oklahoma playing host to both the National Aircraft Show and the National Science Fair. These caused little stir outside the state, but then came 1957 and the multi-million-dollar America's New Frontiers Exposition in Oklahoma City. This was quite something in itself, but even so, considerably topped in the eyes of scientists by an International Symposium on Science and Education which brought in twelve scientists of world renown, from as far away as England and Sweden, to share their thinking with close to 5,000 aroused Oklahoma business and civic leaders.

By now an impression of something unusual going on in Oklahoma was beginning to sink in. Some may have put the whole affair down as so much tub-thumping in the wilderness (major science centers are now confined mainly to both coasts), but others began to look into this strange Southwestern phenomena more closely. And what they discovered started raising some important eyebrows.

They discovered that behind the headlines and the massive hoedowns lay such telling accomplishments as a year-long, full time, all-expense-paid refresher-type-course seminar for High School science teachers. Held at O.S.U. in the winter of 1955-56, this seminar and a similar one at the University of Wisconsin established a national trend which has since spread to 86 other American colleges and universities.

They found that Oklahoma was first in the nation to go into a statewide testing program to identify youngsters of outstanding ability, and to evaluate the effects of their high school training. (Of 67,000 tested, more than 7,000 showed exceptionally promising aptitude for advanced work). They also found that Oklahoma was again

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**Dr. Lee A. DuBridge,
President,
California Institute
of Technology**



"My first contact with the Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma was only two years ago when their officers and trustees paid a visit to Southern California. I listened with astonishment to the story of what that organization was doing, and became convinced then and there that this Foundation is one of the most imaginatively conceived, most devotedly operated and potentially one of the most important organizations in this country.

"For many years we in the universities have been saying that the new frontiers in America are the frontiers of the mind and that in this century the most active and promising intellectual frontiers are in the various fields of science — both pure and applied.

"We have been saying this to our students; we have been saying it to the public. But here in Oklahoma, which only half a century ago was on the great American frontier, a group of farsighted people have become really convinced of where the new frontiers lie, and have decided to do something about it."

"In thinking of this visit to Oklahoma I have of necessity thought of the early pioneers. I have thought also of the pioneers of the present day. What could be more natural than in this region where the atmosphere of pioneering persists strongly, where it exhibits . . . a notable metamorphosis into a modern form, what more natural than that here in Oklahoma there should be groups leading the way for the benefit of the country as a whole, in examining into some of the problems of its future which . . . may hold the key to our prosperity or our failure in the days to come."

**Dr. Vannevar Bush,
Chairman, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology
Corporation**



Garden of the Wild

By MAGGIE CULVER FRY

H

AVE you ever eaten canned cat-tails, or sipped a tall, ice-beaded glass of ripe May-apple juice or pink sumacade?

The cat-tails growing along the edge of the lake in the reeds make fine eating when young and tender. Prepare the tails as you do asparagus. Poke stalks when young may also be cooked and creamed in this manner and like the cat-tail, the polk stalk may be canned or tucked into the home freezer for future feasts.

While there are several edible mushrooms, there are also poisonous ones. I stick to the two I can always identify at once. The first is the beeksteak; white, soft and fan-shaped with gills underneath, which is found growing on dead hickory or pecan snags or stumps. And the truffle, which pushes through the ground in head-like formation, and it is wrinkled like brains. These are a rich brown color but rather dull looking, and are white inside.

Mushrooms are wonderful, whether broiled with butter added, served like oysters in milk stew, or dipped in batter and fried.

In addition to wild blackberries, and in many areas strawberries and huckleberries, we used to find big wild grapes in the eastern Oklahoma hills, resembling purple Concord and white Niagaras. In many places there are wild red plums, and blue ones with a rare perfumy flavor, excellent for jelly. In making pies or preserves of mulberries try mixing them with tame rhubarb for fine flavored conserve.

The little "possum grapes" which grow almost everywhere make the finest jelly of all. Wash, crush, barely cover with water and heat to a simmer, then extract all the juice. It is sometimes so rich and yet so tart that more water can be added. Use commercial pectin for perfect

jell. These abundant little bearers are also prized by the Indians for making blue grape dumplings.

Wild onion is perhaps the most popular Oklahoma wild dish when scrambled with eggs, and for good reason. Here is a dish exciting!

"But I am always afraid of gathering and eating crow-poison," I have heard people say all my life. Yet actually there are such easy ways to tell the difference.

Wild onions are usually more blue-green than the crow poison. And about the time wild onions are the best size for eating, the crow poison is just in bloom. That little yellow-white tulip-shaped bloom is the crow-poison. Another instant test is to crush a blade. If it smells oniony, it's the thing you're after.

I no longer live in the real paw-paw country but in some river bottom localities these banana flavored fruits still grow. They are mild—even bland—with an aromatic flavor some people like.

Oklahoma's wild persimmons now—these are superior in flavor to the tame ones as large as baseballs that are shipped in. Especially are persimmons and blackhaws delicious late in the fall, after frost. North of Claremore the red-haws grow to immense size. One year I gathered some that resembled small crabapples.

May-apple juice? It is as fragrant as the ripe fruit smells. Combine it with other fruit juices for summer punch or serve it alone. It tastes like apple and pineapple juices combined.

And while our native pecans are of better flavor than some varieties of papershells, and the rich black walnut is in a class by itself, the hickory-nut is my favorite. As a child my favorite sandwich was made of hickory nuts spread between biscuit. Mother used to tell us about the fine Con-nut-chee the full-blood Indians made from the beaten hickory nut kernel, and made into large balls for eating in the hand. During her school days, the Con-nut-chee man who came to the Cherokee Female Seminary selling this delicacy, was hailed with joy.

No wonder Coronado was so enthusiastic about the fruits our land produced! I have not covered all the food offerings of the Oklahoma wilds, but have listed some of the ones that compel the wanderers to come back home.

After reading Mrs. Fry's gemlike article on succulent tidbits from Oklahoma's garden of the wild, we hurriedly wrote a letter of acceptance to her, and asked her to supply us with details as to when each of these delicacies is at its peak of goodness. Here is her answer.

—The Editors.

I meant to answer you yesterday but my granddaughter was in a little school play and I went down to school to make her up and found a dozen and a half other little girls needing the same treatment so I worked right through, using up my bottle of liquid make-up and feeling well repaid for they did look pretty.

Now, not to waste your time . . .



WILD ONIONS

March and early April.

CAT TAILS

When they're young and tender. This is one of Dr. Milton Hopkins, Professor of Botany at Oklahoma University, favorite foods. He had friends who canned them for him.

SUMMER GRAPES

August. Cookson Hill area. Some of them are not the best grade grape and are somewhat sour, but we have gathered big tender ones as good as any I ever ate. The white ones are more rare and widely scattered, but when we found these they really weighted the small trees down. We'd pick them and take in big five gallon lard buckets at a time, filled with the shelled ripe grapes for jelly making.

CHICKASAW PLUMS

We gathered these blue plums at Vian, and I imagine they still flourish on the little wooded hills and in the creek bottoms. You could inquire, or I could. August for Chickasaws.

PAW-PAWS

October, I'm pretty sure. We used to get them in Sandtown bottom at Vian.

POSSUM GRAPES

September and October. They look best in September. These grow practically all over, I'd imagine.

POKE

April. Later than that it is apt to be strong.

MUSHROOMS

Truffles (Brown, brainy head-like ones). April. You have to stumble upon them and I'll go look. I know where I gathered them year before last. They sometimes come up on my lawn, but I haven't seen any yet. *Beefsteaks*: April, September (when not too dry), and most always in October, the best month for them.

SUMAC

When the heads are dry, I believe, and is made by steeping the heads in water. Since I do not remember just when they are mature (shame on me, I can look out and see bushes), I'd have to check. I suppose I have just been too close to the sumac.

RED WILD PLUMS

There are some here in Rogers County. August for these.

MAYAPPLE

June, for the ripe Mayapple, after the umbrella is pretty well dead and the yellow fruit hangs on. These abound in nearly any creek or river bottom that is thickly wooded.

HICKORY NUTS

When pecans and walnuts are ripe.



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 OKC 353 81717 74031 18027 80578 17724 42712
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 MAF 265 81615 74017 15406 28808 70050 24707 13723
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like Oklahoma scenery, flora, and fauna,
 you can get a tasty bit of the whole
 seasonal variety of the U. S. in . . .

Oklahoma Weather

by
 HARRY VOLKMAN

Oklahoma,
 Where the wind comes sweeping down the plain,
 Where the waving wheat
 Can sure smell sweet
 When the wind comes right behind the rain—
 —Richard Rogers.

A New Englander like myself has been subjected to much past misinformation about Oklahoma weather. Actually, people in most of the other forty-seven states have many wrong ideas about the weather here in the southern plains.

The climate here is very desirable. There is an abundance of sunshine, ample rainfall, and mild winter weather with a minimum of snow and sleet. Summer heat is accompanied by a prevailing south breeze that effects a good measure of cooling, particularly in the evening.

Summer mornings are wonderful, one of the best times of the year. And the widespread adoption of air-conditioning makes summer afternoon comfort easily attainable. The simple evaporative coolers which are so cheap to operate work amazingly well in Oklahoma because of summer's usual attendant low humidity.

Clear sky and excellent visibility are the rule here. There is no haze from adjacent ocean or industrial smog since clean, efficient, and inexpensive natural gas is our most widely used fuel. This fine outdoor weather makes

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"Year of snow, Fruit will grow."

"A cold April, the barn will fill."

"Sky red in the morning
 Is a sailor's sure warning;
 Sky red at night
 Is the sailor's delight."

"If the sun set in gray
 The next will be a rainy day."

"Rainbow to windward, foul fall
 the day;

Rainbow to leeward, damp
 runs away."

* Guymon transmitting through Amarillo—½ sky cloud coverage—wind southwest 16 knots—visibility 15 mi.—no change in sky coverage in past 3 hrs.—cloudy—barometer 1004.7—temp 35 degrees—no low clouds—ceiling above 10,000 ft.—no middle clouds—high cirro-stratus clouds—dew-point 28 degrees—barometer falling unsteadily 1.5 millibars in past 3 hrs.—850 millibar pressure 4,440 ft. above sea level—clouds moving from northwest—high 36 degrees, low 9 degrees during past 24 hrs.



OAK FENCE POST

There is something inherently American about an oak fence post. Something it calls to mind . . .

Abe Lincoln splitting rails as a boy.

The solid ringing sound of axe bit chopping burr oak on a frosty cold spring morning.

Something of the way the pioneers staked out a raw, new land.

Something about a fence post speaks of the love of a man for his own ground; of his determination to make something of it and pass it on to his children.

COLOR PHOTO BY JESS BREWER

OKLAHOMA WILDFLOWERS

Perhaps the clump of wildflowers here are the land's answer to the fence post's challenge. These wild blue verbena spring from a land part untamed, untameable. You may guide the land's production, but you cannot dominate it. Plant and grow and reap your crops; but still the land has its little say, rebelling to produce something wild and beautiful . . . of its own.

It is a little known fact among Oklahomans that their state produces a greater variety of wildflowers than any other state in the Union except, possibly, California and Texas. Botanists are not in full agreement here and, as a matter of fact, cannot be, for varieties of plant life vary from season to season.

But this is certain, and agreed upon by students of the flora of the United States. On the eastern border of Oklahoma may be found the varieties of plant life of the eastern United States, including the New England States. But, crossing Oklahoma, these varieties undergo a gradual and complete change.

On our western border grows the plant varieties of the desert states and the far west. Thus, a general conclusion with few exceptions, any plant that will grow anywhere in the United States will grow somewhere in Oklahoma, and, almost every variety of wildflower that grows anywhere in the United States can be found somewhere in Oklahoma.

GLASS MOUNTAIN

. . . so named because the surface is covered by millions of tiny, sparkling selenite crystals. The abruptly-rising, fancifully-shaped hills are a part of the Blaine Escarpment, a great gypsum formation which extends across most of western Oklahoma.

Geologists believe that water, through the ages, has worn away the softer shales and clays, leaving the resistant gypsum to form a hard, protecting top. Gradual erosion has left strange formations—appearing to be feudal castles, or minarets, or human profiles—carved in solid caps of the gypsum, four to five feet thick.

Large quantities of the selenite crystals and bands of satin spar cover Glass Mountain, which ranges in height from a few feet to three hundred feet above the valley floor. Chunks of the crystal, clear as processed glass, may be picked up, but will crumble into powder when light pressure is applied.

. . . from **The American Guide Series: OKLAHOMA**, pp. 295-296.

COLOR PHOTO BY EALM GREGORY

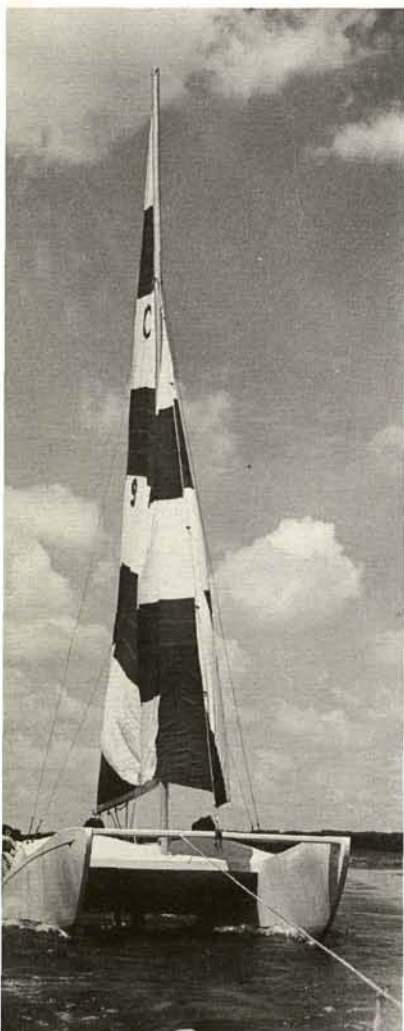
RED SOIL

The blossoming myriad of Nuttall's Wild Onion in this picture spring from Oklahoma's red earth; Land of the Red Man, land of Red Soil. Many millions of years ago, a mountain range crossed central Oklahoma. From its slopes particles of iron washed down and turned to rust, changing the earth to tones of vermillion and deep red.

This distinctive coloring of the soil tells many things. It tells why the brick industry thrives here. The soil is fertile, contrary to common belief. Much of the state's best farm land lies in the central Oklahoma area geologists call the "Red Beds Region".

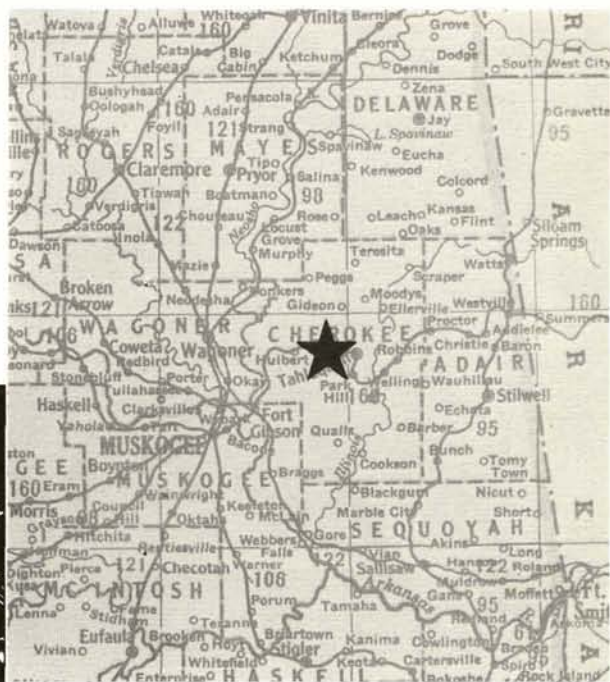
It is also a reminder that this area was once all ocean, for today red clay covers over 51 million square miles of ocean bottom, the link between Oklahoma and the Permian age.





WESTERN HILLS LODGE

Sailboating is restful fun at Sequoyah State Park. The Society of American Travel Writers, during a recent convention, termed facilities in the Fort Gibson Lake vicinity among the finest in the nation, saying it is "the most beautifully located American resort."



ELK CREEK FISHERMAN

While western Oklahoma is noted for its rugged western scenics, studded like uncut jewels in the rolling plains, eastern Oklahoma is noted for a gentler beauty — streams, rivers, and lakes in abundance.

The pleasure-occupied gentleman here is casting for small mouth bass in a fisherman's paradise. It doesn't take a fortune to enjoy a fishing trip in Oklahoma. Plentiful state park camping areas, within a few hours drive for even out-of-state visitors, make it possible to spend a week fishing in Oklahoma for only a few dollars more than it would cost to spend the same week at home.

But beyond the fun of fishing, many other eyes are on eastern Oklahoma water resources. Recent industrial surveys indicate that the area can become as important to the economy of America as the Ohio River valley. Formulated plans include the construction of canals to carry water from eastern Oklahoma's abundance to care for central Oklahoma's growing future needs; to provide water transportation from Oklahoma to the Mississippi and thence to the Gulf of Mexico.

Within a short distance of the scene pictured here are Tenkiller and Sequoyah State Parks, Western Hills Lodge, Old Fort Gibson, Greenleaf State Park, the old Cherokee capital at Tahlequah, and metropolitan Tulsa with its beautiful Gilcrease and Philbrook Art Museums.

COLOR PHOTO BY JESS BREWER



STORM OVER CIMARRON

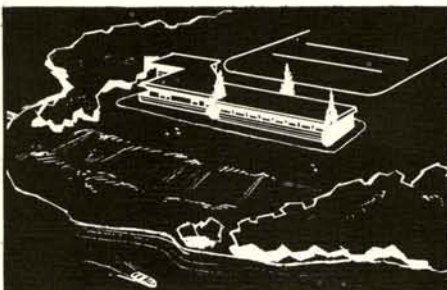
Over the centuries, the restless Cimarron, shifting its river bed with every arbitrary whim, in flood, or drouth, or friendliest season, has created this strange desert near Waynoka. Its presence is comparatively unknown due to the fact that it has never been exploited as a tourist attraction.

Park your car off the main road and hike out among the dunes. As trees, houses, and signs of civilization drop from sight, you can give your imagination a little stretch and pretend you are in the midst of the wild Sahara.

Like that famous African desert, these great dunes shift with the wind. Whether you catch the weather in a glowering mood, as in this striking picture, or in the usual full glow of the sun, it can be quite an experience.

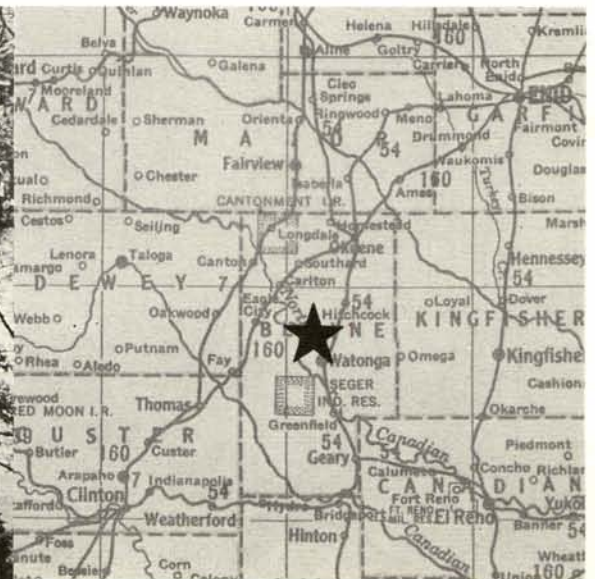
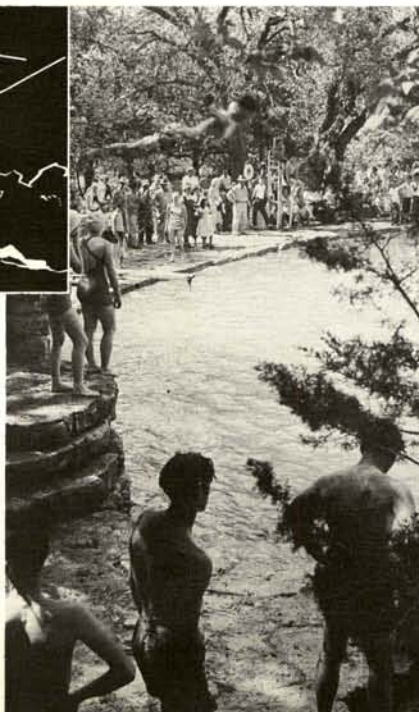
This is Oklahoma's biggest sandpile—quite a treat for the youngsters—and only an hour or so's drive from Alabaster Caverns, Boiling Springs, or Roman Nose State Parks. While in the area, work in a side trip to the Great Salt Plains, at Cherokee.

COLOR PHOTO BY EALM GREGORY

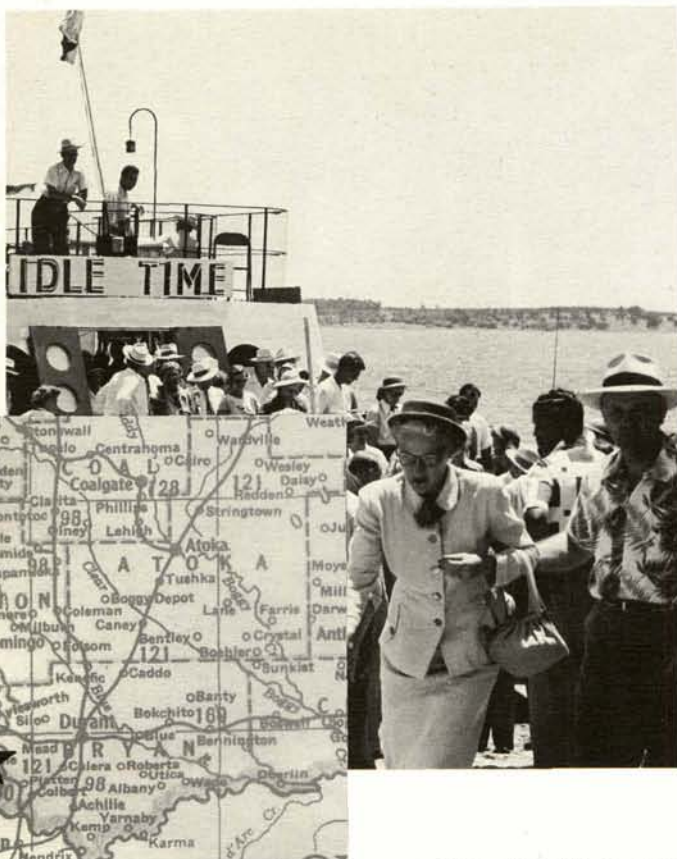


ROMAN NOSE LODGE

Swimming? We recommend the Roman Nose Park pool as the bluest, the prettiest, and the coolest on hot summer days. A favorite family park, there's worlds of fun here for the kiddies; swings, and slides, and shady trees.







COW COUNTRY

It all began with the trail drivers, moving their herds of longhorns up across Oklahoma and Indian Territories on the Texas Trail, the Chisholm, the Jones and Plummer Trails, to the railhead markets in Abilene, Ellsworth, and Dodge City.

It got to be quite a problem. The trail drivers discovered that, instead of losing weight on the trail, as would normally be expected, their traveling herds **gained** weight on luxuriant Oklahoma grass. These were Indian lands then, and drovers began taking a superabundance of time getting across Oklahoma, grazing their herds on reservation grass for months, even seasons.

Presently, in spite of attempts by the U. S. Army to prevent grazing on the Oklahoma lands, some of the drovers began to stay permanently, establishing great ranches in the Cheyenne-Arapaho country, and the Cherokee Strip.

Lease arrangements were at last worked out with the Department of Interior, and the cow business still flourishes on green Oklahoma grazing pastures — 22,000,000 acres of them, now carrying more than 3,000,000 head of white-faced Herefords (as pictured here), black Angus, Shorthorns, and the great tawny Brahmas of the Osage.

Some six different types of cattle production thrive in Oklahoma, due to varying types of country, from the year-around green of the Kiamichis to the high plains of northwest Oklahoma. A big steer can gain two-and-a-half pounds a day on the succulent grass of the Osage and it is not uncommon to find a single ranch in that area producing 25,000 pounds of beef a day during spring feeding.

"Hereford Heaven" in the Arbuckle Mountains has produced three International Grand Champion Hereford bulls, and northeastern Oklahoma has produced three International Grand Champion Angus bulls. The sage-dotted grazing land pictured here is in northwest Oklahoma, up Woodward way.

LAKE TEXOMA LODGE

Sight-seeing cruise on a stern wheeler; what a tonic for shop-worn nerves. (They have these by moonlight, too. Try one for that romantic atmosphere the feminine sex likes so well!)



COLOR PHOTO BY PAUL E. LEFEBVRE



BLUE WICHITAS

Peaceful spring evening across the rugged terrain of the Wichitas, Oklahoma's range of western-style mountains.

Here, in the Wildlife Refuge, are seventeen clear, deep lakes. You may fish, or swim, enjoy outdoor camping, or just an afternoon picnic here.

The Wichitas are one of the oldest mountain ranges on the continent. Once 15,000 feet high, Mount Scott is now the highest peak at 2,500 feet. From its summit, easily reached by auto, you may view the country for fifty miles in any direction.

Free-ranging herds of buffalo and longhorns may be seen. The world famous Wichita Mountains Easter Pageant will be held this year on April 6th.

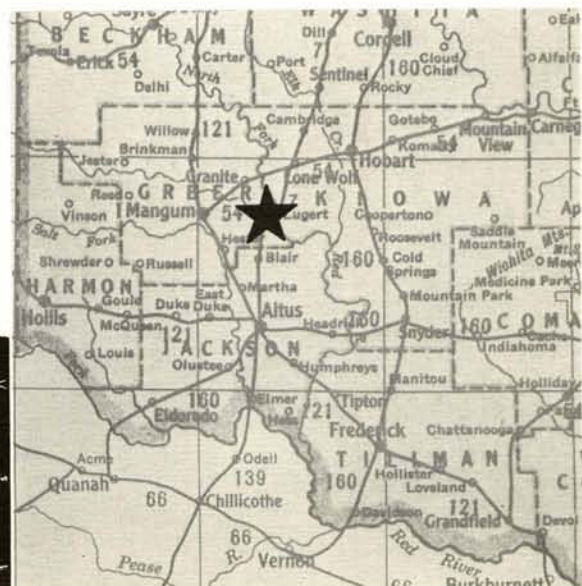
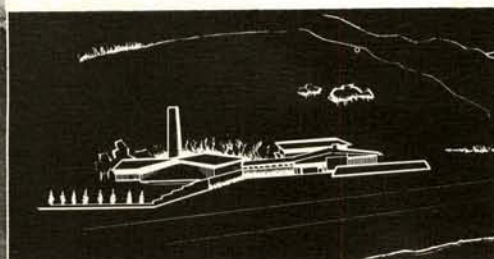
There's plenty to see and do in the Wichitas. Quartz Mountain State Park and Lodge is nearby. Lake Murray State Park and Lodge is just a little farther, and giant Lake Texoma, with its State Park and Lodge is less than three hours away.

COLOR PHOTO BY KAZIMIR PETRAUKAS



QUARTZ MOUNTAIN LODGE

Fishing in rock sheltered coves is just one of the pleasures to be enjoyed at Quartz Mountain Park. If you want something more strenuous, there is water-skiing, hiking and climbing, and horseback riding, among others





THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD



At the time of Jesus, the dogwood tree grew as large as the oak. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen for the timber used in making the cross. The dogwood tree was greatly distressed at having been selected for so cruel a purpose.

Jesus, on the cross, sensed the dogwood tree's pity for his suffering and made this promise; "Never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used for a cross. Henceforth the dogwood tree shall be slender and bent and twisted.

"Its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross — two long and two short petals. In the center of the outer edge of each petal there shall be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with blood. In the center of the flower there shall be a crown of thorns.

"All who see the dogwood trees and the flower will remember that it was on the dogwood tree that I was crucified. This tree shall not be mutilated or destroyed, but cherished and protected as a reminder of my agony and death upon the cross."

THE FLOWERING DOGWOOD

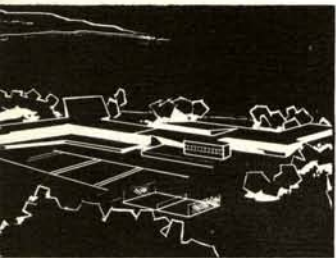
Throughout central and eastern Oklahoma, each spring the dogwood dons its vestments of glowing white. In late April or early May, pilgrimages are organized to view its beauty. They depart from Sallisaw, or Tahlequah, Tulsa, or Oklahoma City, for a day's drive over hilly, mountainous terrain, over trails older than Oklahoma.

It is not necessary, however, to join an organized tour to enjoy all this scenic loveliness. Simply drive to any town or state park in the area, and ask directions to the nearest and best "Dogwood Trail".

COLOR PHOTO BY JESS BREWER

LAKE MURRAY LODGE

Park lodges are wonderful for conventions. Gathered around the piano here to strike a few barbershop chords, is a group of editors at the Press Association Convention at Lake Murray.





ROBEO

by
BILL BURCHARDT



The limber, rope-muscle rider relaxed momentarily on the top rail of the chute, his gray eyes scanning the grunting, hard-hided beast in the narrow pen below. "I'll tell you," he said. "Most of these critters are just tryin' to get away. The bronc's main aim is to unload the feller off its back. In calf ropin', the calf just wants to get somewhere away from that loop. But don't make no mistake about it. These bull boogers aim to kill you!"

The Brahma in the chute buckled its dark back and pounded cloven hoofs against the splintered lower rails. As the rider stepped over the rail, the bull hooked a blunted horn between the top bars. With hoarse bellow, it shook the whole line of chutes as it wrenched the horn free. The rider pulled his leg back.

He stepped across again, to the far rail, then eased down, gathering a firm handfull of the single, loose rope hand-hold permitted by R. C. A. rules.

"Bust 'er open," he muttered.

The attendant pulled the release and the chute door flung open like a sprung trap. The kind of ride he made then was watched by 25,000,000 people in the United States last year, from Madison Square Garden to Calgary to California.

Rodeo is a sport, not a show, one of the biggest spectator sports in the country. And in all the big rodeos and many of the small ones, the spectators are watching crack Oklahoma cowboys at work, plying their remarkable journeyman trade.

The 1957 championship awards list eleven Sooner cowhands. Jim Shoulders of Henryetta, National Champion all-around cowboy, and the first man in rodeo history to win the National Championship three times (1949, '56, and '57). Buck Rutherford of Lenapah has

been in the top ten many times (8th this year), and won the National Championship in 1954.

Oklahomans in 1957's top ten ratings are:

STEER WRESTLING;

1st—Willard Combs, Checotah.

5th—Benny Combs, Checotah.

STEER ROPING;

1st—Clark McEntire, Kiowa.

3rd—Everett Shaw, Stonewall.

4th—Shoat Webster, Lenapah.

8th—John Pogue, Miami.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING;

7th—George Williams, Tulsa.

BAREBACK BRONC RIDING;

1st—Jim Shoulders, Henryetta.

5th—Buck Rutherford, Lenapah.

CALF ROPING;

10th—Shoat Webster, Lenapah.

Continued on page 31

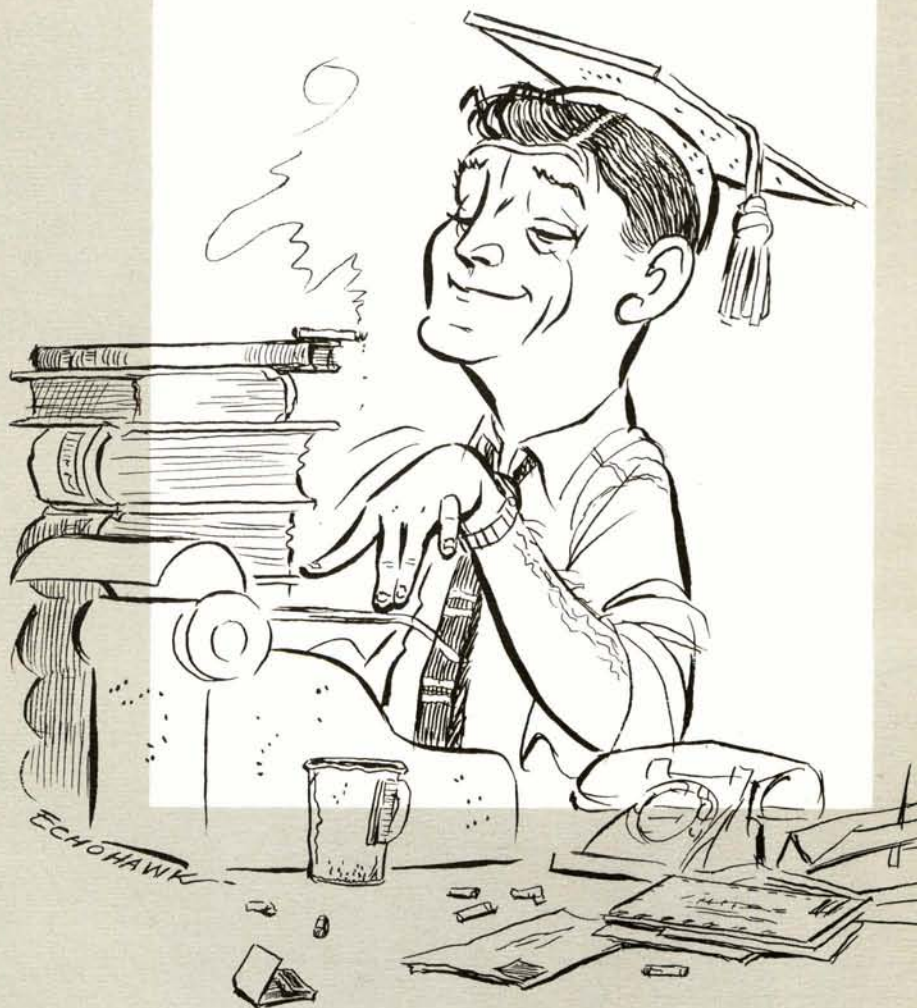
Goya-like qualities are apparent in Paul Lefebvre's fine Brahma Bull picture made at the McAlester prison rodeo. The picture almost seems to symbolize man's ageless struggle against THE BEAST. That man does not always win the struggle is obvious here.

The beast's triumph invariably hurls man into a maelstrom of violent action. Emotion is in this picture; terror of physical harm, the frantic attempt to escape, and the strong, direct purpose of the victorious beast.

COLOR PHOTO BY PAUL E. LEFEBVRE



the best of Troy Gordon



Jan. 2, 1958

Mr. Troy Gordon
The Tulsa World
Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Mr. Gordon:

In our humble opinion, the column you write for the *Tulsa World* contains some of the best humor now being produced hereabouts. Would you be interested in submitting some good stuff from your column *ROUND THE CLOCK* that we could use for a piece entitled *THE BEST OF TROY GORDON*?

Incidentally, we occasionally run across a hilarious bit by-lined by Joanne Gordon in the *Tulsa World*. Who is this Joanne Gordon? Any relation?

THE EDITORS
Oklahoma Today

Jan. 5, 1958

Gentlemen:

I'm very flattered by your suggestion. Certainly I'd be pleased, even if you ran nothing more than the title.

Enclosed are ten pages of stuff from my column. I tired after ten pages. And if ten pages tires me, what do you think it would do to your readers?

Joanne Gordon is my wife. Actually she's funnier than I am, but don't tell her I said so. I'd recommend her to you for "*The Best of*" except that (a) she's my wife, and (b) I'm afraid you'd want to lead off with her stuff instead of mine.

Sincerely,
TROY GORDON

P.S. Your opinion doesn't seem so humble to me. I just hope you're right!

Dear Know-It-All:

My wife is mighty hard-headed. She insists we need a new car but I don't think I can get much of a trade-in. What do you say?

Constant Reader

I'm afraid you are right. There isn't much of a trade-in on hard-headed wives this year.—Mar. 11, 1956.

* * *

(For the sake of posterity, that was the first Know-It-All I ever wrote and that marked its debut. How did I happen to start writing them? I had a column to write and nothing else to fill the space.)

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

I think Elvis Presley is real good. Have you heard his last record?

Bing

I hope so.

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

Do you believe reincarnation is possible here?

Bridey

No. In Oklahoma, spirits in any form are banned.

* * *

Jimmy doesn't tease the cat
Since we beat him with a bat.

* * *

Most intriguing announcement of the week on the Tulsa police radio:

"I'm at the scene where that boy's head was split open and he's all right."

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

I am only 19 and I stayed out until 2 the other night. My mother objects. Did I do wrong?

Delinquent

Try to remember.

* * *

Grandpa lost his joi de vivre
When the doc removed his liver.

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

I am a Boy Scout. My Scoutmaster insists that I should float but I always sink to the bottom. What will I do?

Deadweight

Drown, if you keep listening to that muttonhead.

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

You are a low-down, sniveling, yellow-bellied snake-in-the-grass. What do you think of that?

Sunshine

Not a whole lot.

A columnist has a day once in a while in which he he asks himself:

"Isn't this a heck of a way for a grown man to make a living?"

I commented to my wife that it was one of those days and she cheered me immensely by replying:

"Well, don't worry about it. You're not making much of a living."

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

Have you written any songs lately.

T. P. Alley

I'm working on a tender ballad called "I Don't Hate A Living Soul But I'm Keeping a List in Case I Change My Mind."

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

Where is infinity?

Wolfgang

Man, it's nowhere!

* * *

Dear Know-It-All:

What was the most important thing Oklahoma learned in its first 50 years?

Chuck

Don't schedule Notre Dame on the semi-centennial anniversary.

THE END?

(No. Just before going to press, the *Autobiography of Troy Gordon* arrived. Result: the attached excerpt.—Ed.)

Autobiography

I was born Nov. 2, 1920, in Topeka, Kans. (no, not the Menninger clinic). My father is a Methodist preacher who, after many years and many assignments all over Kansas, has returned to the scene of the crime, Topeka, where he now preaches. My mother, by a rather strange coincidence, is a Methodist preacher's wife. This arrangement avoided a lot of talk among the parishioners . . . I married Joanne Milligan, a Bartlesville girl. In search of Shangri-La, I joined INS and spent three years in Dallas handling sports, three years as manager of the Pittsburgh bureau and 18 months as manager of the Chicago bureau. By this time we had learned that the nearest thing to Shangri-La was the area from whence we came, so thence we returned . . . Like any father, my proudest accomplishment is our four children, Linda, Vicki, Don and Susan. Don's name really is Troy, although he isn't a "Jr." We call him Don simply because I got tired of answering Joanne's question: "Troy, do you have to go to the bathroom?"

THE END

Missouri, Kansas,

—AND—

TEXAS RAILWAY,

75 MILES OF STAGING SAVED!

Cars now running to Pryor's Creek. 75 Miles of Staging Saved.

TRAINS will reach the Arkansas river by the 4th day of July, when

100 Miles of Staging will be saved.

36 Hours Quicker than by any Other Route.

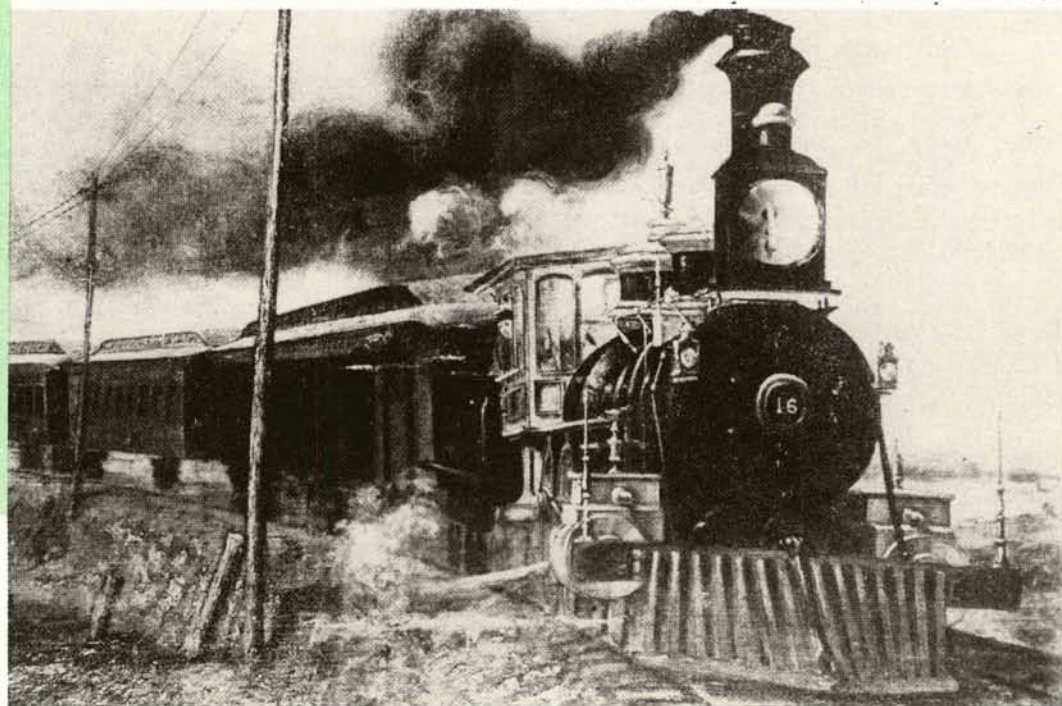
Fare always as low as by any other competing line. The El Paso Stage Company makes close connection at the end of the track. The Overland Transit Company connecting with this road, gives through bills of lading to and from Eastern cities.

K. S. STEVENSON, Gen'l Manager,
Sedalia, Mo.

H. D. MITCHELL,
Gen'l Freight and Ticket Agent.
June 17, 71, wlv 12

The M. K. & T. railroad reached Bluejacket Station, near Vinita, in the early 1870's. This ad was published when the tracks reached Pryor's Creek.

... The M. K. & T. Railroad and the Last Frontier by V. V. Masterson, 1952.



SOUTHWEST ROMANCE

Continued from page 5

work of cutting logs and erecting cabins was begun in the late fall of 1820. It was named Union Mission because it was supported by several denominations in the East.

About all that remains there now is a state historical marker pointing to the place, some scattered foundation stones, and a weed grown cemetery. But it is a site that will live in history, for there the first Protestant church was organized, the first school was opened, and the first book was printed in Oklahoma.

Also in the vicinity of SEQUOYAH STATE PARK was the first military post in Oklahoma—Fort Gibson, established in 1824 on the Grand River just below the present dam and near the trading settlement on the Verdigris. Unlike most frontier posts it was never a base of operations against hostile Indians, but it was the scene of many peace councils and the starting point of many expeditions such as the one that visited the Plains tribes in 1834.

For a time it was the westernmost post and a sort of focal point in frontier history. Two of its military personnel and one civilian living in the neighborhood in the 1830's or early 1840's became presidents: the commandant, Zachary Taylor, of the United States; young Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, of the Southern Confederacy; and self-exiled Sam Houston, of the Texas Republic. The original wooden stockade and barracks have been restored, some of the later stone buildings are still standing, and the well kept national cemetery is a repository of much military history.

During these same years a settlers' front of log cabins, rail fences, and plowed fields was advancing into eastern Oklahoma. Nobody knows when it crossed the

present boundary. First it moved up the Red River valley, so that BEAVERS BEND STATE PARK—that wild, primitive, lovely tract—is only a few miles north of the oldest settled area in the state.

By 1818 it had reached the mouth of the Kiamichi. In 1822 a count of the population showed 1190 free persons and 91 negro slaves. Besides laying out farms and raising live stock the settlers built grist mills and cotton gins and ran stores; and wandering preachers came through and held religious services.

The same development was paralleled a little later along the Arkansas, expanding past the TENKILLER area to the "Three Forks" of the Arkansas, Verdigris, and Grand below SEQUOYAH. The people of course were squatters, the fringe of white settlement that always advanced ahead of surveys and land titles.

Eastern Oklahoma was at that time a part of the newly formed Territory of Arkansas. In 1822 the southeast corner—including BEAVERS BEND and other beautiful recreation spots of those mountains—was organized as Miller County. The county government was carried on in a house rented from a settler two or three miles southwest of the present Idabel; and in 1824 under the name of Miller Courthouse it became the first postoffice in present Oklahoma. A similar development took place in the northeast, when the parks and playgrounds in that area were included in Lovely County, Arkansas. That county seat is now the site of the Presbyterian assembly grounds north of Sallisaw.

But another stage—the Indian Territory stage—in Oklahoma history was already under way. The Five Civilized Tribes of the Gulf and Southern Appalachian region were being persuaded or forced to exchange their ancestral home-lands for wild tracts on this frontier. In 1828 the

boundary of Arkansas was moved back to its present location and the white settlers were displaced by Indians.

Now it was the Choctaws that laid out plantations along the Red River, and tended little farms in the mountain valleys of Oklahoma's southeastern playgrounds. Their settlements still dot that area; and the sturdy stone church erected in 1846 by a Choctaw congregation still stands near Millerton as the oldest church building in the state.

Farther west the Chickasaws laid out their farms and established their schools in the area around LAKE TEXOMA STATE PARK. They built a log council house and named it Tishomingo, and a town grew up around it. Later they built a square strong building of granite blocks to serve as their capitol. When their government passed out of existence and they became citizens of Oklahoma they sold it to newly formed Johnston County and it is still in use as the courthouse.

In the wooded hills between TENKILLER and SEQUOYAH parks the Cherokees established their capital and named it Tahlequah. They opened their Male and Female seminaries nearby in 1851, second only to the University of Missouri as the earliest public institutions of higher learning west of the Mississippi. When they yielded their tribal independence at statehood they sold their Female Seminary building to the new commonwealth and it is still in use at Northeastern State College, the oldest college building in Oklahoma. At Tahlequah also is the tribal capitol, now used like the Chickasaw

as a county courthouse; and the whole city and surrounding area is storied with Cherokee history.

Cabins of Cherokee fullbloods once dotted the remote valley set deep in rocky bluffs now forming the SPAVINAW HILLS PARK, owned and maintained by the city of Tulsa. Now buried beneath the clear waters of the upper lake was the comfortable home of Oochalata, the shrewd, thrifty native statesman, who left his well kept farm to serve four years (1875-79) as elected chief of his people. The village where he preached in the Cherokee language to a Baptist congregation still carries his name simplified to Eucha, but it has been moved to the hills above the encroaching waters.

Northeast of Grove—now a resort town on many-pronged GRAND LAKE—lies fertile Cowskin Prairie, once the home of prosperous Cherokee farmers. To the north of this and squeezed between the Grand River and the Missouri and Kansas boundaries were numerous small tribes displaced from distant homes, New York to Oregon. On the Cowskin Arm of this great branched lake Mathias Splitlog, an industrially minded Wyandotte, built the town of Cayuga, where he established a carriage-works and directed his milling and railroad enterprises. Everything is gone now but the beautiful little Catholic church he built and the cemetery behind it where he and his family are buried.

But the descendants of all its Indian tribes still live in Oklahoma, and give a distinctive color not only to its playgrounds but to its whole work and culture.

EL PASO STAGE LINE.

STAGES leave Fort Smith at 6 a. m., for Nensho, connecting with A. & P. R. R., for St. Louis.

Stages leave Fort Smith for Fort Gibson, C. N. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12 m.

Four Horse Coaches leave Fort Gibson, C. N., for terminus of the M. & A. T. R. R., for Baxter Springs and terminus of A. & P. R. R., daily at 7 a. m.

Four Horse Coaches leave Fort Gibson, C. N., for Texas, at 7 a. m., daily, connecting at Boggy Depot, C. N., with Tri Weekly Hacks for Fort Arbuckle, Tishomingo, and Fort Sill, and at Sherman, Texas, with daily line to McKinney, Dallas, Waco, Austin, San Antonio and all principal points in Northern and Western Texas.

F. C. AHMSRONG.
Superintendent,
Fort Smith, June 8th, '11 w&w-2m.

At Darlington station, the Cheyenne-Arapahoe Agency, near El Reno, in 1870. Most early day trail stops became established because of convenience to "wood and water." Clear water springs and wooded canyons made Darlington a favorite stop for early day freighters, and later a stage line way station.

Much post trader merchandise was shipped by Arkansas River steamboats when this picture was made at Webbers Falls about 1880. Early entry of the railroads into Oklahoma brought the influence of water transportation in the locating of trading posts and settlements to an early close.

WANTED,
BY THE UNDERSIGNED,
BEEF-HIDES, Tallow, Bees-wax, Deer-skins, Coon-skins, Fox-skins, and Wool. For which liberal prices will be given, in Goods, at Cash Rates.

WOOL must be clean and free from burrs, or it will not be received.

R. J. MEIGS.
Park Hill, Sept. 23, 1915-1st

SEEKING.
OF SAs, OCEAN, CASH DA, DE SAs,
EL SAs, JW SAs, OCEAN.
GAYZ OL DISEYJ DROOT, JOCRAW-
CA DDA CYAS TATU WECASAJ O-
ATHIN, OOC JACUP DE DAI O-
AIGTAL CUSAJ: GAYV SAsJ
SAsY,
/1912
DE STAGE SAsS OOC 1912



photo copy from the State Historical Society, original picture in the Claude Hensley Collection.



photo from History of Oklahoma by Grant Foreman, Oklahoma University Press. 1942.

all this...

Continued from page 3

largest variety of timber within its boundaries (as well as a nearby cypress which is the nation's largest). BOILING SPRINGS calls itself the "Oasis of the Plains." And woods laced with hiking and bridle trails cover much of the water-free areas of TENKILLER, OSAGE HILLS, GREENLEAF, CLAYTON, MURRAY and TEXOMA. (For those with willing spirits but aching feet, saddle horses are readily available. SEQUOYAH even offers a string of shetlands . . . and a stage coach.)

Wildlife? BEAVERS BEND has the most different kinds of birds to be found anywhere in the state. But BOILING SPRINGS claims the biggest variety of assorted wildlife, from deer and beaver to pheasant and wild turkey. OSAGE HILLS boasts foxes, mink, wildcats and wolves with its deer. And SEQUOYAH adds antelope, buffalo and—for our neighbors to the south—a half-dozen white Texas longhorns. As for bats, they can be found at ALABASTER CAVERNS and QUARTZ MOUNTAIN. And while hunting, of course, is not permitted in any of the parks, public shooting grounds can be found near MURRAY, WISTER, HULAH, QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, BOILING SPRINGS, TEXOMA, HEYBURN, and SEQUOYAH.

But the state parks vacation curriculum isn't confined to the three W's. Despite the fact that Oklahoma as a state is just beginning its second half-century, it can look back on a long and dramatically exciting history. And rare indeed is the park that doesn't supplement its modern recreational facilities with a fascinating relic or two of frontier days.

Our good friend Angie Debo is covering this phase of the state park vacation in a companion article. So we'll mention here just in passing that BOILING SPRINGS was once a welcome rest stop on the Dodge City-bound Western cattle trail . . . that OSAGE HILLS and ROMAN NOSE were favorite Indian campgrounds long before "camping out" became fashionable . . . that the storied Butterfield coaches (from Fort Smith to far-off California) skirted what is now TEXOMA.

As for those who think modern outlaws get around, they need to plot on a Sooner State map the "favorite hangouts" of the Daltons, James, Youngers, and Coles. ROBBERS CAVE is unique only because it emphasizes its claim in its official name. But OSAGE HILLS, Hinton's RED ROCK CANYON and others insist they sheltered their share of these early-day badmen. (ROBBERS CAVE can, however, lay official claim to Oklahoma's No. 1 badwoman, Belle Starr. An admirer of hers still plays a ghostly fiddle around the cave, as a matter of fact, provided one's incredulity doesn't render him tone deaf.)

Then there are those state parks which eschew the dry-fly and water-ski trade entirely. These exclusively historical shrines include the now restored MURRELL

HOME, a social and cultural center of pre-Civil War Oklahoma; SEQUOYAH'S HOME, preserving the cabin and other personal effects of the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet; FORT GIBSON STOCKADE, an authentic reproduction of one of the state's most important military outposts; and the WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL in Claremore, with some half-million visitors a year.

Moreover, the state park vacationer need budge but a few miles from his comfortable GHQ to visit the sites of old forts like Washita near TEXOMA and Arbuckle near MURRAY, historic cemeteries like Park Hill (out of SEQUOYAH and TENKILLER), architectural landmarks of the Five Civilized Tribes like the old Choctaw Capitol north of CLAYTON LAKE.

Some of the more noteworthy museums are Woolaroc and the Osage Council House near OSAGE HILLS; Tahlequah's Cherokee Museum and Muskogee's Five Civilized Tribes Museum (in the old Union Agency building), both near SEQUOYAH; Tucker Tower at MURRAY. And a partial run-down of scenic extras should include Turner and Prices Falls north of MURRAY, Devils Den north of TEXOMA, giant sand dunes southeast of ALABASTER CAVERNS, the rattlesnake-infested Gyp Hills north of ROMAN NOSE, the picturesque Winding Stair Mountains south of LAKE WISTER.

But nature and history, no matter how generous or how exciting, can go only so far. The birds have trees and the foxes have holes. But man, when he sets out on a vacation, demands something a bit more substantial. And whether he fancies a tree-shaded camp site or an air-conditioned lodge suite, the Oklahoma state park system is ready for him.

Though 46th in age, 17th in size and 25th in population, Oklahoma can point to some state park statistics that are almost as impressive as those piled up by the Big Red football team. In 1956 (the last year for which official figures are available) Oklahoma ranked 7th in the number of state park visitors (9,320,430), 3rd in the number of overnight guests at park hotels and lodges, 2nd (after New York) in the number of overnight cabin guests. How was this possible? Because in 1956 only New York budgeted more money for improving its state park system than did Oklahoma! (The figure: \$6,914,300.)

It all adds up to this. Though other states have more state parks that provide more real estate acreage, Johnny-come-lately Oklahoma is virtually leading the 48-state pack in the quantity and quality of its state park accommodations and facilities. To paraphrase a current ad slogan, that means giving you, the vacationer, more of what you go to a state park for.

Briefly, here's the itemized picture. You'll find modern lodges at SEQUOYAH, TEXOMA, MURRAY, ROMAN NOSE and QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, along with a wide variety of cabins. You'll also find cabins at ROBBERS CAVE, WISTER, OSAGE HILLS, TENKILLER, GREENLEAF, BEAVERS BEND and BOIL-

ING SPRINGS. Camping and picnic facilities are available, of course, at all but the historical sites.

The cost picture is comforting, too. A minimum \$5 rate for single rooms (\$7 for doubles) was recently approved for all lodges in the state park system. (Special feature: a four-day, \$20 family plan for a couple and children under 12.) Cabin rentals generally range from \$5 to \$6.50 for a couple. Camp sites, of course, are free for the asking.

A young St. Louis businesswoman, just home from an Oklahoma state park vacation, summed it up this way. Admitting that she'd always thought of Oklahoma as "a sort of vast wilderness," she went on to rave about the "beautiful rolling green countryside" and "the impressive job that the state has done in providing gorgeous recreational areas . . ." It was "tremendous," she concluded.

And we're betting you will find the Oklahoma state parks just as impressive. Try a vacation in one of them

this year and see for yourself. But give the project a week or two, not just the in-and-out routine. They have more than enough what-to-see and what-to-do attractions to keep you and your family busy. (No mention has yet been made of tennis courts, golf courses and putting greens, children's playgrounds, archery ranges—just completed at SEQUOYAH—and authentic Indian ceremonials like those at TENKILLER.) And they have an abundance of reasonably priced accommodations to make you comfortable while you're there.

A wrap-up? All right, take SEQUOYAH. It has a new museum boasting a coin collection, antique guns, and a number of authentic Cookson Hills relics. And that strikes us as the perfect symbol of a vacation in one of "dry" Oklahoma's shiny new parks . . . a luxurious lake-side lodge that features watery fun and frolic, plus a museum displaying an old-fashioned moonshiner's still! Try to find a California or New York state park that can top THAT.



PHOTO BY BILL BURCHARDT

RODEO

Continued from page 24

BULL RIDING;

1st—Jim Shoulders, Henryetta

4th—Eddie Quaid, Oklahoma City.

9th—Joe Green, Sulphur.

Oklahoma cowboys in 1955 and 1956 top ten ratings (in addition to those listed above): Jim Whaley of Duncan, Todd Whatley of Hugo, Jim Snively of Pawhuska, C. P. Watson of Loco, J. D. McKenna of Tulsa, Tom Nesmith of Bethel, Bob Wegner of Ponca City, and Sonny Oliphant of Okemah.

In 1957, Oklahomans won first money in five of the eight rodeo events in which the R.C.A. lists a national championship top ten. Two years ago, in Lubbock, Texas, Buck Rutherford was horned in the head by a Brahma bull. Doctors predicted that he would never be able to ride even a gentle horse again.

His depth perception was destroyed, and his eyesight badly affected. Yet today, in a recovery that nationally known rodeo announcer Clem McSpadden calls as amazing as Ben Hogan's in golf, Buck is again riding the wild ones so well that he stands 8th in 1957's national ratings for all-around cowboy.

Continued on next page

Far rougher than football, rodeo is perhaps most like boxing in the independence of its contestants. With this big difference; it is run by the cowboys themselves through their own organization, the Rodeo Cowboys Association.

As a result, it is one of the cleanest of sports. Corrupt practices that plague boxing have been avoided. There are no greedy managers to arrange "fixed" contests. In rodeo each cowboy is his own manager, and a waddie who does wander from the straight and narrow comes under immediate R. C. A. disciplinary action, and winds up on the suspended list carried in each issue of Rodeo Sports News.

The rodeo cowboy is a traveling athlete who works for no guarantee, but instead must pay a stiff entry fee for every event he enters. Yet the good ones profit well. Jim Shoulders won almost \$44,000 in prize money in winning his 1956 all-around Championship. About half of that, he considers net profit. The rest goes for taxes and expenses.

It costs money to follow rodeo as a livelihood. In steer roping (a sport which Oklahomans dominate) a horse good enough to win on is worth \$2,000. A cowboy has to have a good car and horse trailer, and a herd of steers to practice on during the off season.

His investment in these, and other items of equipment, will top \$8,000. Above that, is the tremendous expense of entry fees and travel. About 60,000 miles a season, and a good part of that by air, for a working cowboy will often be entered in two or three rodeos simultaneously, in as many states. He has to commute by chartered plane to be in time for the events he has entered in these distance-separated rodeos.

It is a tough business. Death is no stranger in the rodeo arena. Cowboys have been thrown and horned to death by bulls, stomped by jughead broncs, crushed beneath dogging steers and falling horses, had bones racked and broken by horses trying to climb out of the chute before it was open.

Asked if he has ever been seriously injured, Jim Shoulders says, "Well, not seriously. I've broken both arms, both legs, and both ankles. My knees have been sprung so I have to tape them up to ride. I've had a couple broken collar bones, and I have to strap down a thigh muscle that gets pulled often."

At Lewiston, Idaho, this year, Jim went on to ride another bronc and two more bulls after he had broken a collar bone riding his second bronc. It is not uncommon to find a cowboy sitting on the sidelines to watch the rest of the rodeo, carelessly ignoring painful injuries suffered in the event just previous.

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals sees to it that rodeo stock is rotated, rested, and seldom injured. There is no organization to prevent cruelty to

cowboys, which accounts for a spectator's statement that; "Rodeo is the nearest thing to the old Roman arena, where they just threw a man to the lions!" The advantages are all on the side of the animals.

In addition to the highly successful Sooner rodeo cowboys listed earlier, Oklahoma has some of the most-in-demand stock contractors and producers in the sport. Beutler Brothers and Beutler and Morgan, both of Elk City, and Carl Lamar of Norman are listed regularly in the official publication of the R. C. A. It is Oklahoma stock that puts on the show at such outstanding rodeos as Cheyenne Frontier Days, the National Western at Denver, the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth, along with others throughout the nation.

This coming summer season will bring the best in rodeo entertainment to Oklahoma. The R. C. A. contestants we have listed, and all the top "comers" will be performing throughout the state. These rodeos will be listed in *Oklahoma Today*, Spring and Summer Issues, Calendar of Events.

It would be an unpardonable blunder to fail to state that Oklahoma girls have made high marks in the rodeo world. Beginning with Lucille Mulhall, undoubtedly the greatest cowgirl of all time, the fairer Sooner sex have consistantly been top-notchers in the ladies' events rodeo schedules.

They have particularly excelled in the "contract acts", trick riding and roping, interspersed among contest events. In the contract category also come the much-appreciated rodeo clowns, who fight the Brahmas, saving many a contestant's life by baiting a rampaging bull away at the critical moment.

One of the most inspiring things in rodeo is the camaraderie that exists among rodeo competitors. When a cowhand is down on his luck, other riders will stake him to entry fees, help with travel expenses or hospital bills, even advising him how the beast he has drawn will buck, although it may mean that their advice will cost them the contest.

To get back to the bull rider who opened our yarn, and who was bucked off twenty-two feet from the chute, the very next afternoon he hunkered down behind the chutes to tell another rider, "That ol' bull number six you drew—" (bucking horses have colorful names like War Paint, Chili Bean, Home Brew, Idiot, P. D. Q., Cyclone, Tick Fever, and Gin Fizz, but the bulls are traditionally nameless unknowns, identified only by a number).

The squatting rider went on, "I rode ol' number six yesterday. He'll come whipping out of the chute with his belly so close to the ground you think he's gonna drag, then he'll throw his tail end way up an' hit the ground with his front feet, tryin' to jar you off in front of him so he can get at you with his horns—so lean way back an' hang an' rattle, or he'll hook your hide off an' hang it on the fence to dry!"

the area ideal for military air bases, private flying, and all sorts of outdoor sports.

Football and baseball games are rarely ever postponed because of undue precipitation. The heavy dust storms that once plagued us have been ended by wiser use of the land that once was subject to wind erosion.

The entire United States has been passing through a period of unusual tornadic activity, but danger to property and life has been minimized in Oklahoma by the television and radio severe weather warning system. New forecasting techniques and observation by radar have made it difficult for storms to catch us unawares.

The major assignment of forecasting Oklahoma's weather goes to John Hamilton and his staff at the airport weather station. Their reports are carried by teletype circuits to all the state radio and television stations and newspapers.

Then Oklahoma T. V. weathermen and girls swiftly communicate this up-to-the-minute information on television screen weather maps into the state's thousands of living rooms. Wally Kinnan and Bob Thomas (WKY-TV), Sid Lasher (KOTV), Bill Hyden (KVOO-TV), Don Woods (KTUL-TV), Don Peebles (KGEO-TV), Lola Hall and myself (KWTV); people have come to rely on all of this group for regular and reliable weather information.

Weather, anywhere, is the product of the restless motion of air that shifts tropical breezes against polar blasts and back again. Air from Canada, the Gulf of Mexico, the Rocky Mountains, and the Pacific Ocean alternately passes over Oklahoma, making our weather.

When the tropical Gulf breezes come, they often make rain. For snow, cold air from Canada has come to condense the Gulf moisture. Some of our most delightful weather occurs with sunny, mild conditions when the west winds sweep Rocky Mountain air this way. Swimming and harvest time weather arrives on the wings of the southwest wind from New Mexico and west Texas.

Weather statistics for this immediate area include;

Average temperature for the year --- 60.4 degrees
 Average temperature for January --- 37.1 degrees
 Average temperature for July ----- 82.1 degrees
 Average rainfall for the year ----- 30.22 inches
 Average wettest month (May) ----- 4.25 inches
 Average driest month (February) -- 1.29 inches
 Average annual snowfall ----- 8.9 inches

Those of us who are in the business hope that the old saw that "only newcomers and fools attempt to predict weather in Oklahoma" is no longer true. Though Soonerland's weather may be often difficult to foretell, there is a pleasantness to it that characterizes every month in the year.

OKLAHOMA SCRAPBOOK

The Red Bud

Tall and slender she stands
 Bearing jewels in her hands,
 Like that immortal bush afire
 She decks herself in bright attire,
 Her one brief song to sing.
 A brave harbinger of spring,
 She dares to offer up her all;
 A red bud tree. Oklahoma's pride,
 Joins nature's panoramic tide.

Thelma Bryarly Burleson

For many years Ralph Hudson, Oklahoma's state librarian, has felt that the office of Governor should have a personal flag. Other state's Governors had them, why not ours?

Some eighteen months ago, Mr. Hudson decided the best way to get action was to take action himself. The flag pictured here is the result.



He investigated other flag designs, and using them as a basis, created his own design. He felt that it should incorporate the State Seal. The five stars surrounding it are symbolic of our five civilized tribes (Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole), as well as being the device normally used to indicate ranking authority. Its colors, green and white, are Oklahoma's official state colors, adopted by law in 1915.

The Oklahoma Governor's flag was adopted by the last session of the legislature, and will henceforth be flown on state occasions.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Kent Ruth, compiling author of the University of Oklahoma Press' recently published *Oklahoma Guide*,

Continued on next page

Continued from preceeding page

also writes the weekly *Trip Teasers* column for the *Sunday Oklahoman Magazine*.

The television weatherman is a local celebrity in the modern American community. Weathercasts have become one of the most popular features in the daily telecasting schedule. Harry Volkman is a pioneer in this field; one of the first to achieve statewide prominence, as a weatherman on both Tulsa and Oklahoma City T. V. stations.

Angie Debo, author of *Prairie City, Oklahoma: Foot-loose and Fancy-free, Tulsa: from Creek Town to Oil Capitol*, and many other engrossing books about the Southwest, is now Professor of Oklahoma History at Oklahoma State University.

Maggie Culver Fry (*Garden of the Wild*) tells us she was born at Vian, Indian Territory. She is now a resident of Claremore, an active freelance writer, and author of *The Witch Deer*, a book of Indian poetry.

Kazimir Petruskas' beautiful study of the Wichita Mountains is on page twenty-three. A degree from Oklahoma City University, professional study in New York, Chicago, and Dallas, and an extensive background of professional experience preceded his present position as Chief Photographer for the Oklahoma Tourist Bureau, and Planning and Resources Board.

Jesse Brewer's wonderful color photography has been a mainstay of *Oklahoma Today* from the very first. A linotype operator for the Leader Press, Jesse is a weekend photographer, of a type which this magazine wishes we had many more.

Ealm Gregory, whose striking pictures of the Glass Mountains and Cimarron sand dunes adorn this issue, is a member of the Oklahoma Camera Club. A mobile equipment servicer at Tinker Field, Ealm pursues his hobby of scenic photography during frequent trips about the state.

EXHIBITION TO VISIT OKLAHOMA

During our Semi-Centennial year, the Library of Congress in Washington presented a commemorative exhibition, entitled OKLAHOMA, consisting of rare historical pictures, books, broadsides, manuscripts, and maps, from the National Archives. The opening of the exhibit in Washington was a gala occasion, with the late Walter S. Campbell (Stanley Vestal) making the opening address.

Of prime interest to Oklahomans, the exhibit closed in Washington on February 15th, and will soon be shipped to Oklahoma to be exhibited in the Oklahoma State Library. The exact dates on which it will be shown are not yet available. Watch your local newspapers for the dates of the OKLAHOMA exhibition, and don't miss it.

LETTERS

We have been swamped with so many wonderful letters right along we were beginning to feel guilty: too many to even begin to answer them personally as we'd like to, and too wonderful to print without running the

risk of appearing just out to pat ourselves on the back. But the Winter issue has brought on such an avalanche, we're going to have to let these few samples seep out.

The issue had hardly been out more than a week when, on Dec. 10, we heard from Augusta I. C. Metcalfe:

"Although I had learned that you were going to publish a story about myself, I never dreamed of so much publicity from your nice magazine. Have received letters from a number of states already saying that they saw my painting and the writeup in *Oklahoma Today*. Words cannot express the appreciation that I owe you and others, there."

Then on Dec. 16 this came in from Walter S. Hard, Jr., Editor of *Vermont Life*—particularly interesting to read with the late lamented incident between the Lumbees and the Klansmen in North Carolina in mind:

"In case you didn't know it, being so close to it, your new issue of *Oklahoma Today* is extraordinarily fine, even for you. So much liked your piece on the Indian ballerinas. Some other states play down their Indian citizens as perhaps picturesque but best after all on a reservation. Oklahoma is proud of them (and much reason to be) and that makes a big difference to people this far away. Maybe this is because I had an Indian grandmother (eight generations back), but I like it that *Oklahoma Today* doesn't ever patronize."

Then the avalanche began. From Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rousculp, Inglewood, Calif.: "... are sending them to our daughter-in-laws parents in Australia. Each number seems to be getting better. Being from Nowata, makes it seem like visiting home again." From Mrs. O. L. Taylor, Hillsdale, Okla.: "'Love' isn't the proper word to use, I know, in expressing my pleasure over this splendid magazine, but I'm using it just the same!" From Anna E. Wilson, Dallas, Texas: "This evening, since I have been ailing with flu, my family doctor of many years came to see me. He looked at the winter issue and loved it too, so I want you to start them for him. I sing God Bless America. I sing God bless my Oklahoma."

But perhaps the letter which warmed our hearts most was the following. In a proclamation issued to state news papers we had offered to jump into Lake Hefner at high noon upon New Year's Day if the Winter issue was not "the finest all-around issue of any magazine ever to be produced entirely within the borders of any one state in this nation."

Among several letters expressing concern (though no challenges!) was this:

Messrs Loye, Burchardt & Lefebvre

Am tender hearted old Oklahoman. All lakes in or near our beloved city are, at this season, very coolish. Don't do it.

Have never seen a copy of your magazine.
I'll subscribe if it isn't too expensive.

EVA S. LEE
Prague, Okla.

Calendar of Events



Mar. 1	All-State Orchestra	Univ. of Okla.
	Oklahoma State Dog Show	Okla. City
	Sooner Scandals Show	Okla. City
	Varsity Revue	Okla. State Univ.
	Tulsa University vs. Bradley (Basketball)	Tulsa
Mar. 1-4	World-wide Antique Show	Tulsa
Mar. 2	Florists Association	Tulsa
Mar. 2-5	Religious Emphasis Week	All Colleges and Univ.
Mar. 3	Erich Leinsdorf conducts the Tulsa Philharmonic, Claramae Turner-contraalto soloist.	Tulsa
Mar. 4	Young Democratic Club (Harry Truman and Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, guests)	Univ. of Okla.
	St. Louis Symphony, Vladimir Golschmann, conductor	Tulsa
Mar. 4-7	Southern Oklahoma Jr. Livestock Show	Ardmore
Mar. 5-7	Junior Livestock Show	Muskogee
Mar. 6	Tulsa Univ. vs St. Louis (Basketball)	Tulsa
Mar. 6-8	Regional High School Basketball Tournament	Okla. City
	N. E. District Teachers Convention	Bartlesville
Mar. 7	O. S. U. vs Colorado (Wrestling)	Okla. State Univ.
Mar. 8	O. S. U. vs Wichita (Basketball)	Okla. State Univ.
	Oklahoma Obstetric and Gynecology Society Convention	Okla. City
	Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest	Okla. City
Mar. 9-16	Sports and Travel Show	Okla. City
Mar. 10	Louis Armstrong	Univ. of Okla.
Mar. 10-14	4-H & FFA Livestock Show	Okla. City
Mar. 12	American Dairy Association	Okla. City
Mar. 13	Symphony Concert	Okla. State Univ.
	Roger Wagner Chorale	Univ. of Okla.
Mar. 13-15	State High School Basketball Tournament	Okla. City
Mar. 14-15	"No Time for Sergeants"	Tulsa
Mar. 14-16	National Chinchilla Breeders of America Convention	Okla. City
	Nat'l Association of Insurance Women	Muskogee
	Washington County Fat Stock Show	Dewey
Mar. 16-22	(National Library Week) State Library exhibit of early Oklahoma books and literary material in rotunda of Capitol Building	Okla. City
Mar. 17	Pierre Monteux conducts the Tulsa Philharmonic	Tulsa
Mar. 17-22	Industrial Editors Short Course	Okla. State Univ.
Mar. 18-22	Engineering Week	Okla. State Univ.
Mar. 19	Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo	Tulsa
Mar. 20-21	Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association	Okla. City

Mar. 21	State High School Relays	Okla. State Univ.
Mar. 22	Square Dance Festival	Tulsa
	Sweet Adelines Chorus and Quartets competition	Tulsa
Mar. 24-29	Akdar Shrine Circus	Tulsa
Mar. 25	University Band Concert	Okla. State Univ.
Mar. 27-28	Oklahoma Utilities Association	Okla. City
Mar. 27-29	Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor"	Tulsa
Mar. 28-29	Future Homemakers of America	Okla. City
Mar. 29	Annual Alumni vs Varsity Football Game	Univ. of Okla.

April (exact date not yet available)	Dogwood Week	Tahlequah
Apr. 2	Career Conference (State High School students invited)	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 5	22nd Annual Dairy Day	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 6	33rd Annual Wichita Mountains Easter Pageant and Service	Lawton
Apr. 8	Alexander Brailowsky, pianist, Great Artists Series	Okla. City
Apr. 9-12	Western Week	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 10	National Conference on Electromagnetic Relays	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 11-12	Future Teachers of America Convention	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 12-13	National Secretaries Association	Okla. City
	Oklahoma Press Association News Clinic	Okla. City
Apr. 12-14	Professional Photographers Association	Okla. City
Apr. 13	Annual Rattlesnake Hunt	Waynoka
Apr. 16	State Intercholastic Music Contest (Piano and Organ)	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 17-18	Spring Dairy Show	Guymon
	State Intercholastic Music Contest (Vocal)	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 18-19	Boy Scouts' Historical Pageant and Circus	Tulsa
Apr. 18-20	National Gun Show	Bristow
	Business and Professional Women's Association	Okla. City
Apr. 19	Frontier Rodeo	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 19-20	Southwest Society of Oral Surgeons	Okla. City
	Rotary Convention	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 20-22	'89er Celebration and Parade—April 22	Guthrie
Apr. 20-23	Oklahoma State Dental Association	Okla. City
Apr. 22	Drew Pearson	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 24	Future Farmers of America Convention	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 24-25	State Intercholastic Music Contest (Instrumental)	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 24-26	Southwestern Sales Executive Clubs	Okla. City
Apr. 24-27	Home Show	Tulsa

Apr. 25	Intercollegiate Rodeo	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 26	F. F. A. Agricultural Contests	Okla. State Univ.
Apr. 26-27	Oklahoma Ornithological Society	Turner Falls
Apr. 26-28	Knights of Columbus State Convention	Miami
Apr. 28-29	Oklahoma Garden Clubs Show	Tulsa
Apr. 29	Varsity Band Concert	Okla. State Univ.
	Dave Brubeck	Univ. of Okla.
Apr. 29-30	National Board of United Church Women of the National Council of Churches	Okla. City
Apr. 29-	Disabled Veterans Convention	Muskogee

May 1-3	Pioneer Day	Guymon
May 2	Club Cotton Ball	Okla. State Univ.
May 3	Junior-Senior Prom	Okla. State Univ.
May 4-7	State Medical Association	Okla. City
May 4-10	National Music Week	Statewide
May 5-6	Oklahoma Veterinarians Conference	Okla. State Univ.
May 6-11	Johnny Lee Wills Tulsa Stampede	Tulsa
May 8-9	Bankers Association	Okla. City
May 8-10	Reserve Officers Association	Okla. City
May 9-11	Junior Chamber of Commerce State Conv.	Miami
May 10	Central States Entomological Society	Okla. State Univ.
May 14	American Society of Civil Engineers	Okla. State Univ.
May 14-17	Charity Horse Show	Okla. City
May 15-16	Home Demonstration Agents Association	Okla. State Univ.
May 17-18	Associated Press Convention	Lake Texoma Lodge
May 20-22	Oklahoma Safety Council	Okla. City
May 20-24	Charity Horse Show	Tulsa
May 24-25	41st Annual Convention Oklahoma Lions	Lake Texoma Lodge
May 26	Bennet Cerf	Univ. of Okla.
May 27	Agronomy Day	Okla. State Univ.
May 27-30	4-H Club State Round-up	Okla. State Univ.
May 31-	United Fashion Exhibitors	Okla. City

June 2-3	State Fireman's Association Convention	Miami
June 9-14	United States Golf Association, Open Tournament	Tulsa
June 17-19	Western Senior Golf Tournament	Tulsa

ahead of the nation in starting a massive revision in its school curricula along these new lines.

And they noted with particular interest that the Frontiers of Science Foundation, which lay behind all these ventures as a sort of combination Johnny Appleseed and Diamond Jim Brady, had played a seed grant of \$20,000 to the Oklahoma City public schools for the nation's first major experiment in science teaching through television, into a \$200,000 Ford Foundation grant for expansion of same; and had helped secure for Oklahoma two out of only eight grants for nuclear reactors to be issued by the Atomic Energy Commission to American universities last year.

But the fact that topped them all was their discovery that Oklahoma was rapidly becoming, in that well-worn phrase of the tourist trade, a popular "home-away-from-home" for a good many of the nation's top scientific leaders. In just two short years, more than half-a-hundred of the men whose names have since become almost as familiar headlines as Marilyn Monroe or Jayne Mansfield had come flying into Oklahoma from all over the globe for an endless series of lectures, conferences, inspection tours. Men like Dr. Vannevar Bush, considered the "father" of modern American science; Dr. James R. Killian, M.I.T. president now President Eisenhower's top scientific advisor; Drs. Jerrold Zacharias, Alan T. Waterman, Haakan Sterky, Sir Henry Tizard, and Gordon Dean of former Atomic Energy Commission fame.

As a matter of fact, the arrival and departure of scientists has by now become accepted as such a normal occurrence in Oklahoma, the recent visit of one of the greatest scientists of his age, Dr. Niels Bohr, hardly provoked more among the general public than a pleasant nod of recognition. Where a few years back he might have been classed in the same category with a man from Mars, he was now viewed simply, with respect, as one of the "home folks."

MCGEE

GAYLORD

DRAPER

WEBB



How all this came to be is basically the story of four men who met one evening three years ago to talk of other things, and wound up getting carried away by a new idea—this strange, new, fascinating vision of a New West and the New Frontier of the Mind. Examining the facts, it is also hard to believe that the stars must not have been just right that evening, or some sort of fate operative, for as it turned out these four had exactly the experience,

interests and kind of power needed to get such an idea off the ground in a hurry.

Dean A. McGee, as a scientist and administrator of a national corporation with interests ranging from oil to uranium mines (Kerr-McGee Oil Industries), knew the need for more scientists in a time of challenge. E. K. Gaylord, as head of one of the region's most powerful and respected sets of newspapers, radio and TV stations (Oklahoma Publishing Company), knew how to carry the need to the public. Stanley Draper, long recognized in his profession as one of the most colorful civic promoters in the nation (manager, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce), knew how to show-case the venture.

The fourth man, James E. Webb, supplied the one additional thing needed to get the wagons rolling—a direct line of contact to the top governmental and scientific level. Through his experience as a former U. S. Director of the Budget and as Undersecretary of State, Webb (now chairman of the board, Republic Supply Co.) knew many of the men involved with the problem nationally on an "old friends" basis, and very shortly after that fateful evening he took off to scout out the guides they'd need.

This was the beginning. From it grew an adventure that swiftly drew the support, vision and money of a majority of the state's most far-sighted leaders in business, education and government.

Two of the moves made by this larger group are particularly noteworthy. Frankly recognizing the size of the task and their own lack of experience at the outset, they decided to pack their bags, board a plane, and go directly to the men who could best tell them what needed to be done—the scientists themselves. Today there is hardly a major nuclear plant, research center or policy-shaping governmental body in America which hasn't been literally overwhelmed by this "big bunch of men from Oklahoma" who came dropping in out of the sky to ask the questions the scientists have been so eager—and fighting so much public apathy elsewhere—to answer.

In other words, to complete our image of the New West cast in terms of the Old, they sought out the advice of the best scouts in the business before they set off—and they stuck by this advice; and so have neither got lost nor foundered in the wilderness. They also give a lot of credit to the wagon-masters they picked.

Dr. Robert MacVicar, an outstanding Oklahoma scientist in the bio-chemistry field now vice-president of O.S.U., served as executive director during the Foundation's first year. Dr. James G. Harlow, former University of Chicago faculty member noted for a bold approach to educational problems, now serves in a dual role as the Foundation's executive vice-president as well as Dean of O.U.'s College of Education.

This, and all the rest, is rapidly becoming history—and may well be recorded, in history, as a key jumping-off point in one of the most important advances upon any frontier of all time.

A large, flowering tree with white blossoms stands in a grassy field. In the background, a wooden fence is visible. The scene is set in a rural, natural environment.

**DON'T MISS
THE SUMMER
ISSUE OF
OKLAHOMA
TODAY-ON
SALE JUNE 5**

- Young Scientists in Research and Industry
- We Become the Crossroads of the Nation
- Soonerland: National Golfer's Paradise
- The Dramatic Impact of Prehistoric Oklahoma
- ...and
- Prize Collectors' Item: A Color Portfolio of Oklahoma's Greatest Indian Paintings